

Message Text

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ACTION SPC-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11

RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 SS-20 NSC-07 PC-10

USIE-00 DODE-00 INT-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 IGA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5067

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: XW/SWEL

SUBJECT: DROUGHT IN EAST AFRICA--CONDITIONS IN TANZANIA'S
NORTH MASAILAND

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 0956

1. SINCE TRANSMISSION OF REFTEL, REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM AID TECHNICIANS IN NORTH MASAILAND, AREA OF TANZANIA MOST AFFECTED BY EAST AFRICAN DROUGHT. THUS FOLLOWING REVISES AND UPDATES INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARA 4 AND 14A OF REFTEL:

2. AREAS MOST AFFECTED CENTER AROUND TWO COMMUNITIES JUST SOUTH OF KENYAN BORDER: (A) LOLIONDO, 35 MILES WNW OF LAKE NATRON (A PLACE WHICH HAS GOOD MISSION HOSPITAL); AND (B) LONGIDO, 15 MILES SOUTH OF BORDER AND ASTRADDLE MAIN NAIROBI/ARUSHA HIGHWAY. AREA OF LESSER IMPORTANCE IS JUST NORTH OF MONDULI, WEST OF ARUSHA TOWN. TOTAL
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AREA IN MASAILAND AFFECTED BY DROUGHT: APPROXIMATELY 3,300 SQ. MI.

3. TECHNICIAN ESTIMATE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DROUGHT IS 30,000 (NOT 50,000 AS INDICATED IN OUR FIRST ROUGH ESTIMATES). FIGURE BREAKS DOWN AS FOLLOWS: 1,000 PERSONS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON GOVERNMENT RELIEF SUPPLIES; ABOUT 15,000 ARE NEARING POINT WHERE THEY WILL REQUIRE ASSISTANCE; AND LIKE NUMBER WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED BY DROUGHT CONDITIONS TO REDUCE FOOD CONSUMPTION. MANY, IN LAST CATEGORY, ARE THOSE WHO HAVE FUNDS BUT ARE UNABLE TO PURCHASE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF FOOD BECAUSE IT IS AVAILABLE IN LOCAL MARKETS IN ONLY LIMITED QUANTITIES. (SEE PARA 15A OF REFTEL WHICH OUTLINES DISTRIBUTION PROBLEM IN NORTHERN TANZANIA.) ALSO, REPORTS WE HAVE INDICATE THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERE DROUGHT-RELATED DEATHS, AND SUPPOSEDLY 60 IN CRITICAL CONDITION AND RECEIVING MEDICAL CARE. REGARDING CATTLE, ONE TECHNICIAN ESTIMATES 25,000 HAVE DIED BECAUSE OF DROUGHT AND 350,000 AFFECTED BY PROBLEM.

4. LEADER OF MASAI LIVESTOCK AND RANGE MANAGEMENT TEAM BELIEVES ARUSHA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ALERT TO PROBLEM AND DOING ALL IN ITS POWER TO CARE FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY DROUGHT. LOCAL OFFICIALS IN ARUSHA ALSO APPARENTLY QUITE SENSITIVE TO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. PRIME MINISTER AND STAFF ARE CLOSELY MONITORING SITUATION. HOWEVER, GENERALLY COMPLACENT TANGOV BUREAUCRACY (DIRECTING AN INEFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) IS JUST NOT CAPABLE OF RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY SITUATION AS QUICKLY AS GOVERNMENT LEADERS WISH. CARTER

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